

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

4-18-1994

UM to honor faculty, staff at April 19 reception

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM to honor faculty, staff at April 19 reception" (1994). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 13253.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/13253>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2522

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

April 18, 1994

UM TO HONOR FACULTY, STAFF AT APRIL 19 RECEPTION

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana will honor 12 individuals for outstanding contributions to UM at the annual Faculty and Staff Awards Reception Tuesday, April 19.

The reception is scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. Each honor includes a \$1,000 cash award except the Ruffatto Achievement Award, which is \$3,500.

■ **John Ruffatto Achievement Award** -- Communication Studies Professor William Wilmot. A UM faculty member since 1972, Wilmot practices what he teaches: ways to detoxify conflict and resolve disputes. Over the past decade, Wilmot has intervened in disputes for about 60 organizations that range from family partnerships to government agencies, grade schools to manufacturing plants. He has also mediated disputes within University offices. The Ruffatto Award, named for the former chairman of Murphey-Favre Securities Services Inc., honors faculty members who work with the business community and incorporate that practical experience into their course work.

■ **Most Inspirational Teacher Award** -- Dan Cahalan, visiting management instructor since 1989. He was chosen for the award by Silent Sentinel, a secret honor society that polls graduating seniors. Before coming to the University, he worked as a commodities manager and feedgrain merchandiser for Continental Grain Company in Amarillo, Texas. He holds a master's degree in international management from the American Graduate School of International Management in

-more-

Glendale, Ariz., and a bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of Notre Dame.

■ **Distinguished Teacher Award** -- Patricia Douglas, a UM accounting and finance professor since 1983. Business school Dean Larry Gianchetta called Douglas a classroom "legend" and noted, "No one is more willing to assist in curriculum development, new initiatives, student advising or any other activity that will ultimately create a better educational environment for the students." The only business faculty member ever to win the school's outstanding alumnus award, Douglas was named one of three outstanding educators in the United States by the National Association of Accountants in 1989.

■ **Distinguished Scholar Award** -- History Professor Kenneth Lockridge, who joined the UM faculty in 1991. History department Chair Bill Farr said Lockridge is "one of the leading colonial historians in America." His "A New England Town" was cited in "The American Scholar" as one of the 10 "significant books in American history, 1969-74." His other books include "On the Sources of Patriarchal Rage," "Settlement and Unsettlement in Early America" and "Literacy in Colonial New England." He holds doctoral and master's degrees from Princeton University and a bachelor's degree from Yale University.

■ **Outstanding Academic Advising Award** -- George McRae, professor of mathematical sciences since 1970. Colleagues noted that he serves as a general adviser for students in the Honors Program and carries one of the department's heaviest advising loads. In addition, he serves as mathematical mentor to many students who are not officially assigned to him, carefully tailoring his advice to individual needs and often creating a reading course or seminar to meet a student's needs. McRae's advising also extends to the state's junior high and high school students in his role

as coordinator of the Montana Science Fair.

■ **Outstanding Staff Awards -- Fall semester:** Gayle Zachariasen, administrative secretary in the chemistry department. A UM employee since 1973, she has served in her current position since 1985. Department Chair Richard Field described her as "an absolute gem" who has an outstanding knowledge of University regulations: "It is not unknown for somebody in Main Hall to call and ask Gayle for the interpretation of policies that they wrote." **Spring semester:** Paul Marsh, networking services manager for Computing and Information Services. A CIS employee since 1977, he took his current position in 1985. CIS Information Systems Specialist Vicki Pengelly cited his "exceptional concern for the quality of his work and the quality of service provided" by CIS. "He performs the duties of at least three to four full-time staff," she said.

■ **Academic Administrator Award --** History department Chair Bill Farr. A UM faculty member since 1967, he has headed the history department since 1989. He was instrumental in developing and securing funding for the University's Center for the Rocky Mountain West, which he has directed since its inception. Farr's colleagues describe him as an even-handed and careful steward of departmental affairs who fosters vitality and cooperation within his department. One colleague noted, "He prevails with enthusiasm and good humor where sticklers and nerds invariably fail."

■ **Administrative Service Award --** Foreign Student Services Director Effie Koehn, a UM employee since 1973. Before becoming the FSS director in 1991, Koehn served as coordinator for that office. Her long history at UM also includes stints as a sociology instructor and a research specialist for the Equal Opportunity Office. From 1978 to 1980 she served as an administrative

consultant at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria.

■ **Diversity Award** -- Larry LaCounte, director of the Indian Educational Personnel Development Program, which was launched in 1992 and has already drawn more than 50 Native American students to UM to study to become teachers, counselors and administrators in Montana schools. UM journalism school representatives urged his selection as the first recipient of the newly established award, citing his invaluable assistance with the Native News Honors Project. Salish-Kootenai College President Joseph McDonald said LaCounte has "increased the administrative and faculty consciousness of Indian education, Indian students and ways in which (UM) can be more accommodating in meeting the needs of Indian people."

■ **Outstanding Volunteer Awards** -- William H. Fisher, a volunteer in the School of Education, and Ken Thuerbach, a volunteer in the School of Business Administration and other campus programs. Fisher has volunteered his time and energy for the past five academic years teaching graduate level education courses. Colleagues term him "the consummate scholar and professional," noting his wit, candor and graciousness in donating his time to teach, advise and mentor students. Thuerbach, chief executive officer of Alpine Log Homes, is a founding member of the Montana Entrepreneurship Center's Board of Governors. He founded the annual UM Business Plan Competition and helped establish the Western Accounting Conference. He has lectured and taught undergraduate and graduate classes at UM since 1986, and has presented seminars and speeches for varied University programs and events.

###

Contact: Marie Wolff, 243-4621.

KR
Specialized western
Awards94.rl